



**King County
International Airport**
Department of
Construction & Facilities Management
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January 12, 1999

Mike Skagen
D.A. Zuluaga Construction, Inc.
652 SW 143rd
Seattle, WA 98166

Subject: Oil Separator # 16 Lid Failure

Dear Mr. Skagen:

As a result of the vault manufacturer's contention that we had over-stressed the lid with some heavy vehicle, I have done some research. The vault was to have been designed to handle H2O loading, which has a wheel loading of 32,000 pounds per each of the two rear axles and 8,000 pounds for the front axle with an overall vehicle weight of 36 tons or 72,000 pounds. With the location of the oil separator being as it is, only one side of wheel/axle of a vehicle could ever cross the lid at one time, so the loading it should withstand would be at least 16,000 pounds.

None of the current maintenance or ARFF vehicles or equipment operating on the airport exceed this H2O loading. The airport's ARFF vehicle weighs 44,000 pounds spread over 4 oversize tires. Boeing Company's largest ARFF vehicle weighs 66,000 pounds with weight spread over 6 oversize tires. The nearby sliding gate, which at one time was used for special military deliveries, has not been used for several years, according to a Boeing supervisor.

Therefore, I will not be paying the cost of the repairs since this was more likely a material failure of the lid. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (206) 296-7425.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey W. Winter, P.E.
Airport Engineer

Cc: Mike Hamm, Airport Maintenance Manager